names of certain communities from Assam has been sent by the Assam Government for restoring them the Scheduled Tribes status; and

(b) If so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Assam has sent a proposal listing out the names of certain communities for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes list to Assam.

(b) The proposal is being processed as per approved modalities.

Protection and development of tribals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

†1124. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of the tribes living in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether their population is dwindling; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government for safety and all-round development of those tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) The number of Scheduled Tribes living in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is six which are given as under:

	1981	1991
(i) Great Andamanese	42	32
(ii) Jarawas	31	89
(iii) Nicobarese	21956	25939
(iv) Onges	97	101
(v) Sentineiese	—	24
(vi) Shorn Pens	223	131

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Comparative study of population of STs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as per 1981 and 1991 Census reveals that the population of Great Andamanese and Shorn Pens tribes has declined.

(c) Various Central/State sector schemes/programmes in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, small scale and cottage industry, education, health and drinking water etc. are being implemented under TSP strategy for safety and all-round development of these tribes in the UT of A&N Islands. In order to provide social security to PTGs, the Ministry had decided to provide them benefits of insurance coverage under "Jan Shree" Scheme of Life Insurance Corporation of India in a phased manner.

Financial assistance to tribals

†1125. PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the financial assistance being provided to the States for providing basic facilities to the student of the Tribes and primitive tribes, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Finance and Development Corporation, which provides financial assistance to the tribal groups, has failed to achieve the target; and

(c) if not, the State-wise details of its achievement for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The details of the financial assistance given to the States for providing basic facilities to the tribal students, including Primitive Tribal Groups under various schemes of the Ministry, are indicated in the Statement-I. (See below)

(b) and (c) Against the cumulative target of Rs. 240.00 crores for the last three years *(i.e.,* 2001-2002, 2002-03 and 2003-04),the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) had sanctioned various schemes/projects having its shares of Rs. 241.37 crores, the details of which are attached in a Statement-ll.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.